

Writer: Smith, H. Monmouth, Prof. (?)
(of Inorganic Chemistry)

Subject: Collection of medals of scientists--
How to mount

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dept. of Chemistry
[Cambridge, MA]

1932

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
CAMBRIDGE A, MASS.

January 5, 1932

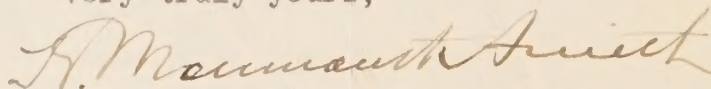
Mr. E. T. Newell, Secretary
American Numismatic Society
155th Street - Broadway
New York, New York

My dear Sir:

We have in the Department of Chemistry a collection of 50 medals of scientists, principally chemists, which I wish to arrange in some suitable form in a gathering room which is to be given over to the faculty and research students in our new building, designed for research in chemistry and physics. I should like to have these medals in a dust-proof case and so mounted that both the obverse and reverse will be visible. Do you have any small clamps or mounts which you have found satisfactory for displays of the medals in your society's collection? I should be very glad to receive any ^{sample} ~~subjects~~ or pictures of such mounts and addresses where they could be obtained.

I am,

Very truly yours,



H. Monmouth Smith
Professor of Inorganic Chemistry

HMS:DG

January 11, 1932.

Prof. H. Monmouth Smith
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Chemistry
Cambridge A. Mass.

Dear Sir;

Mr. Newell has requested me to reply to your letter. We have never mounted our display of medals so as to show both sides. There are one or two methods for doing this, none especially satisfactory and all rather expensive. One method is on a swinging screen or leaf mounted on a wall or column and generally done where there are a number so that obverse and reverse can be seen through glass. One way to mount these is on a heavy piece of cardboard or compo board or laminated wood with holes of the proper size cut out to fit the medals. The space between the glass would have to be far enough apart to admit the thickest medal. The thinner medals are apt to fall down between the cardboard and the glass, unless extra precautions are used to fasten them in.

Another arrangement is to have a series of horizontal bars at varying distances from one another in the case. On these bars are fitted clamps or some semicircular arrangement so that the medals can be placed therein. Each holder has to be made the size to hold the medal. I think the collection of medical medals in the Medical Society's building on the Fenway in Boston has made the use of the first method. Dr. Malcolm Storer, 380 Beacon Street, Boston can give you all information concerning this and possibly other methods. I cannot remember whether the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston have made use of the second method. It might be well to consult them as they have undoubtedly taken up this problem. As far as I know there is nothing on the market that would just fill your bill. Everything would have to be made to order.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
CAMBRIDGE A, MASS.

January 14, 1932

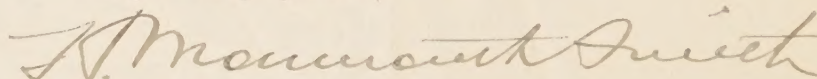
Mr. Howland Wood
The American Numismatic Society
Broadway between 155 and 156th Streets
New York, New York

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 11th instant is at hand and I thank you for your answer to my inquiry. It is apparent that you have met with the same difficulty in trying to display your coins as I have in finding some satisfactory arrangement for showing both sides of the medals. I had already visited the Art Museum, but I have not seen the collection of the medals in the Boston Medical Society's rooms, which I shall make an effort to do directly. I had already considered the method you suggested of inserting the medals between glass on swinging screens, but found the expense prohibitive. It was because of the difficulties I found in deciding the best way to exhibit the medals that I turn^d to find what your experience has been.

Please accept my thanks for your attention to the matter.

Very truly yours,



H. Monmouth Smith
Professor of Inorganic Chemistry

HMS:DG